

This week's TUTOR'S TIDINGS



Week 17

Friday 27th May, 2016

The WOODS of the WORLD series has now been completed. Over the past 10 weeks the woods featured were:

- African Blackwood
- Bocote
- Cocobolo
- Ebony
- Bubinga
- Agar
- Purpleheart
- Lignum Vitae
- Sandalwood
- Pink Ivory

All of these woods, and a whole lot more, can be imported into New Zealand from **Craft Supplies USA**.

If you wish to view the range of goodies from Craft Supplies then visit this website:

www.woodturnerscatalog.com

Their delivery service is outstandingly good. However, the freight/delivery costs are a bit pricey.

If you order in excess of your tax free entitlement and you could be lumped with import duty as well. Check with Customs NZ.

A new series starts today and involves **WOODTURNING PLANS for PROJECTS**. These projects will be pitched at the *beginner – intermediate skills level*. Some of the plans will be sourced from the internet and modified to fit the New Zealand scene, while others will be drawn from my own bank of ideas.

NOTE: In keeping with regulations and respect for copyright, only “free” project plans will be sourced from the internet and then somewhat modified to fit the New Zealand scene. Cheers **Clive**

PROJECT
No. 1

HOW TO MAKE A SPINNING TOP

Start by choosing the right wood. It needs to be a fine-grained and defect free.

Anything with a coarser grain makes it more difficult to get the fine edge cuts. It should also be a **somewhat heavy wood** so the flywheel effect will keep it spinning longer than if a light wood is used.



***Rough Wood** – A piece of fine-grained wood is perfect for a spin top.*

Turn a large dowel

Start by turning it down to a dowel (cylinder) with a length about 6", and just slightly bigger diameter than the finished size of about 2".

Then it's just a matter of shaping each top and cutting it from the blank. **Use a speed of 1200+ rpm. (No 5)** It's rather important to make the point as close to perfect as possible because if it's off-centered even a little bit, the spin will be affected. Use a razor sharp tool to make a slow, fine cut for the final pass. The smoother the top spins, the longer it will spin.

Next, the edge diameter is trimmed down to final size. This is done for each top individually to ensure the best balance. Then the top of the spin top is cut out, leaving the edge about 1/8" (3 mm) thick. Slope the base but it could be flat too.



Large Dowel – The first step is to turn a cylinder just over 2" in diameter. Each top is cut from the end of this cylinder. Use a roughing gouge for this job.



Make an even taper

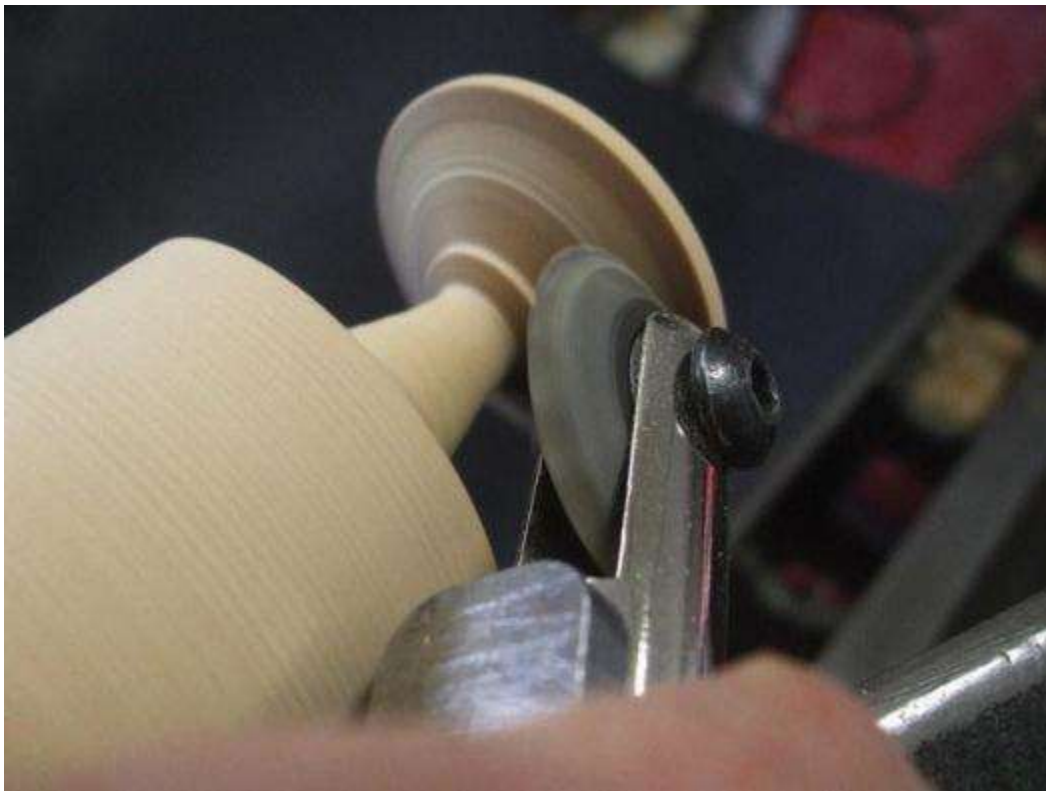
Add decoration

At this stage, it's time to consider the decor. If texturing leave the stem thick for now, for stability.

For texturing you could use the Sorby Spiraling tool, held vertically for a stippled effect, or slanted to obtain a spiral pattern. If the lathe is reversed and the wheel slanted the opposite way, the spiral is reversed. Because the radius of the top is small, the result will often be a repeated pattern.

You could put a groove in the edge and wire-burn it for extra effect. That allows for two colours on a small space.

There's always a bit of fuzz left by the spiraling tool so it may be necessary to do a touch of sanding using 240 grit. The sanding leaves micro-amounts of dust behind and this must be removed or it will clog the tips of the felt pens that are used to add colour.



Adding texture – *Though you can skip this step, adding texture to the spin tops makes them really stand out.*



Wire-Burn Line – With a small metal wire you can add a narrow groove in the outer edge of the top. This adds to the final look of the top. (mini chisel a groove and burn with thin formica card)

A splash of colour

Next comes the art work.

Experimentation is the key. Simply hold a fine-tipped felt pen against the top while it spins at 500 rpm. This will colour only the outer surface of the textured area, accentuating the pattern. Your choice of colours of course!

When all else is done it's time to cut the stem down to size using gentle cuts, drawing away from the top toward the stability of the dowel. The smaller the diameter of the stem, the faster the spin.

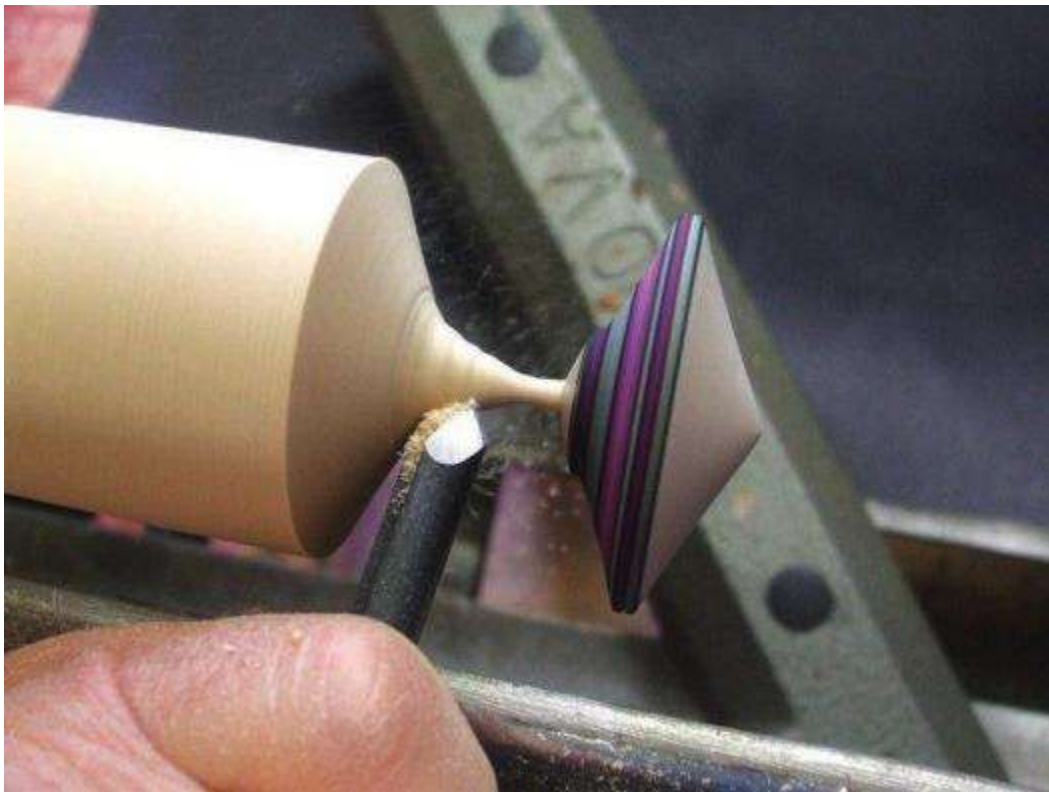
There is one final step – the top must be tested. Wobbling could be the result of the point being off-centre, (*hey did you remember to align your lathe before you started this project?*)

Wobbling could also be the result of different densities in the wood.

OK how many seconds (or minutes) did you get your finished top to spin?

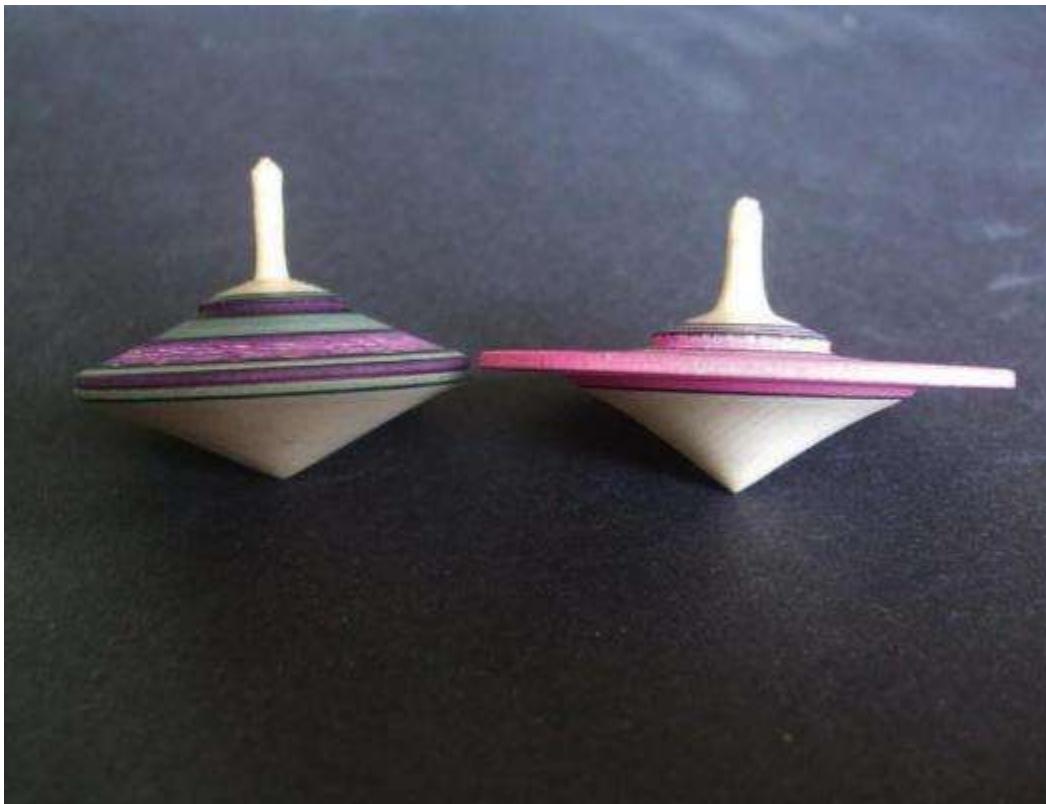


***Add Colour** – Adding a mixture of colours to each top creates a unique, eye-catching spin top.*





Soft Landing – With your hand loosely around the spin top, part it off.



Different Designs. Experiment with various sizes and designs and discover which works best.

Easy eh! Now have a go at making a spinning top.

CLUB NEWS

The Hamilton Woodturners' Club committee met last Wednesday evening to make plans for a whole lot of upcoming happenings. Listed below are events and dates for a range of club activities.

Ink this busy schedule into your diaries.



Saturday 11th June: 9.00am – 12 noon - Working bee at the workshop. Chainsaws, old paint brushes and willing hands needed.

Friday 17th June: 5.30pm – 8.30pm **Robert Sorby** tool demonstration. Open to all club members and other interested turners. All welcome to observe a skilled operator showing “how-to-do-it” turning techniques.

Thursday 23rd June: 6.00pm – 7.15pm - Terry Rillstone from *The Fibreglass Shop*, corner of Lake Road and Somerset Street Frankton, will demonstrate and provide information **about RESIN embedding techniques**. This is a special event for a get-together of the club’s Tuesday and Thursday session members. This invitation is extended to WGW (Guild) and any other interested persons.

Wednesday 6th July: 7.00pm - The next committee meeting. Club members wishing to have any useful ideas promoted at the meeting should approach any committee rep to discuss the matter.

Sunday 10th July: 11.00am – 3.00pm - The Club’s mid-winter celebration to be held at the residence of Grant Taylor. Format will be a Pot-Luck shared dinner. Members to display items turned in the past six months. More information in later TTs.

OTHER CLUB NEWS



The workshop emphasis for the next ten weeks or so, will be on TOOL SHARPENING. Thanks to **TERRY SCOTT (Timberly Woodturning)** who donated the equipment. Our club now has a high-quality tool-sharpening department.

Club members have long heard me harp on about the need to use only razor-sharp tools. Well now this is achievable by individual members.

Members will be encouraged to take on the necessary training to do their own sharpening of gouges and chisels. (New member **SHANE**, has made a flying start in this training !)

To assist with this major undertaking, ALL tools stored in individual lathe racks MUST have a consistent grinding bevel.

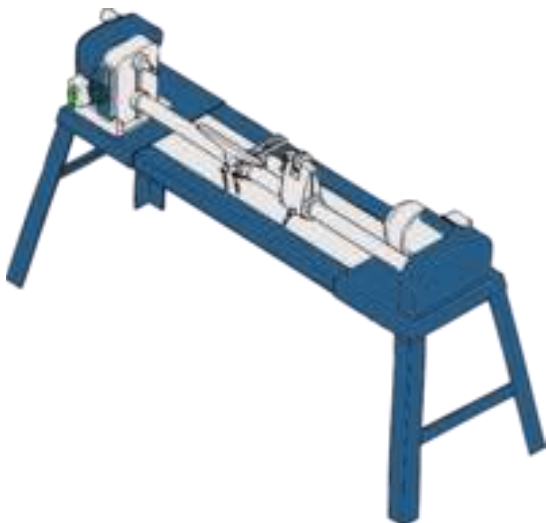
At an upcoming working bee this bevel angle will be applied to all 10mm, 13mm and 19mm rack gouges. This 35-degree angle will be set using a special template.

The goal is to have members confident in knowing that when a blunt gouge is inserted into the jig (correctly) they will simply have to lower the tip onto grindstone to achieve sharpness with minimal steel removal.

The committee has approved the purchase of several new items of equipment.

1. More parting chisels (to achieve having at least one for each lathe rack)
2. A bigger container for the Beall buffing system
3. A two-way sliding vice for the drill press.

Research is now underway to locate the most suitable tool and best price so these items may appear in the workshop over the next few weeks.



What's happening in our workshop?



New tricks and new ideas.

ROBERT continues his foray into unknown turning territory with the enthusiasm of an explorer and pathfinder.

This rather **amazing finish** has been achieved using an acid wash over a blue coloured "paint".

I hope there's a soon-to-be demo.

New tricks with Guilder's Paste

COLIN produces yet another piece of excellent artistry with pyrography techniques, art work, colour and dremel tool etchings.

The bowl inside has been coated with layers of guilder's paint.

A result to be proud of indeed.



For whom the bell tolls?

MURRAY has fitted a new rimu handle to an old bell.

Mooloo fans will be lining up to buy it eh Murray.



Go The Chiefs !

(Tough luck for the WARATAHS!)